



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

JUNE 2018

“BUDDY” POPPY/VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

Before I start my report, let me say Congratulations to our new Department of Wisconsin VFW Auxiliary President Laurel Ann Wiese for 2018-2019 and give thanks for a great year to our Past Department 2017-2018 VFW Auxiliary President Helen Stearns.

First of all, you read it right. These two (2) programs “Buddy” Poppy and VFW National Home for Children have merged. They have been separate programs in the past, but they are very important to the VFW and the Auxiliary for the success of these programs.

Our National Chairman is Renee Fulk from San Clemente, California for these two (2) very important programs. Please share your attempts and successes with her on reaching out and working with your VFW Counterparts. Her email is renee.fulk@cox.net. I will over the next year give you information that you can use in your Auxiliary to learn about “Buddy” Poppy and National Home. More information is available by visiting the VFW website at www.vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/buddy-poppy and downloading the “Buddy” Poppy Chairman’s Guide from www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

Here is information to share with your members and the community. A portion of the proceeds for each “Buddy” Poppy purchased by Departments of each state for distribution provides financial assistance for disabled and aging Veterans who assemble them. For each “Buddy” Poppy purchased:

- One and a half (1.5) cents goes to the Department’s Veterans Service Fund
- One (1) cent goes to VFW National Headquarters Veterans Service Fund
- One (1) cent goes to VFW National Home for Children

Right now many Posts and Auxiliaries are conducting “Buddy” Poppy distributions in their communities. They may not do it each year because they do every other year with the American Legion. This doesn’t mean that you cannot go out there in your local VFW and promote it. You can still have contests in the schools with students coloring poppies or writing about them. PROMOTE the Buddy” Poppy all year!

Now, on to the second part of this Chairmanship: VFW National Home for Children. Much of the information can be found at the website www.vfwnationalhome.org. Read what is available here to educate yourself on the purpose and history of this amazing campus so that you are prepared to educate and reach out to other members, veteran and military families as well as the community you live in. You can request brochures and hand out information to inform everyone about the success of this National Home. Each State Department has a sponsored home and pictures are available of the entire complex. If you have questions, please contact your Trustee of the National Home. This information is on the website. Here is the Helpline phone number if you don't have access to a computer 1-800-313-4200.

If you have questions about either of these programs, please use the contact information given or you may contact me at Laurie2bk@gmail.com or 608-792-1422 (cell phone).

"Reaching For the Stars for Veterans"

Laurie Coffin
Department Chairman
"Buddy" Poppy/VFW National Home for Children

